Extension of retirement age of Government servants

1637. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have extended the retirement age limit of high officials in certain cases, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are planning to extend the retirement age of all Government servants; and

(c) whether Government are reviewing the cases of appointments and transfers of Civil servants during the last general elections; if so, the details thereof indicating; and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Government has not extended the retirement age limit of Government servants including high officials. However, extension beyond the age of retirement is given in some rare and deserving cases in public interest. In the last 2 years in two cases, high officials have been granted extension by the Government for a period of two years beyond the age of retirement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Appointments made during the recent elections are being reviewed by the respective ministries.

Project for setting up of Propylon Unit

1638. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project for setting up of a propylon unit in the Auriya Petro-Chemical Complex in Uttar Pradesh has been assigned to the newly floated 'Yasho Petro-Chemical Co.', if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of the project, and when it is expected to be taken up for implementation, indicating the present stage of the complex and at what stage this unit is to be taken up for erection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Meeting of Delegation of Bhopal Gas Victims to Prime Minister

1639. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of Bhopal Gas victims called on the Prime Minister on or about July 30, 1991 to invite Government's attention to their sufferings and grievances;

(b) if so, what specific sufferings and grievances were brought to him by the delegation; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Convenor, Zahreeli Gas Kand Sangharsh Morcha, Bhopal presented a petition to Prime Minister on 29th July, 1991 which *inter-alia* mentioned the following problems of the gas victims:—

(i) Problems to compensation and interim Relief;

(ii) Rectification of erroneous medical categorisation of victims;

(iii) Revision of Action Plan approved by the Central Government;

(iv) Proper utilisation of money approved by the Central Government for the Action Plan and its time bound implementation;

(v) Appropriate Medical Treatment to Bhopal Gas Vistims; alternative line of Treatment and continuation of medical research work.

So far as compensation is concerned, all matters relating to this are presently *sub-judice* in the Supreme Court in the hearings on the petitions for the review of the settlement of February, 1989. The Government is supporting the review petitions. As regards Interim Relief, it is being paid to certain categories of victims on the directions of the Supreme Court and the Government of India is also paying Interim Relief at the rate of Rs. 200 per month to all the residents of the 36 wards identified by the State Government, as severely affected. The work of medical treatment and documentation has been done by the Government of Madhya Pradesh by engaging a large number of medical doctors and specialists. The Indian Council of Medical Research and other organisations are making studies of the effects of the gas on the victims. The Action Plan has been scrutinised by the various Expert Groups and thereafter approved by the Government. This action plan is for five years and being implemented by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Decanalising the Import of Newsprint

1640. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the President, Indian Newspaper Society describing the proposed hike in prices of newsprint as unjustified and attributed it to the mishandling by STC and their bankers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what final decision has since been taken to reduce the burden of the proposed hike on the newspaper industry, particularly on the small papers;

(d) whether Government propose to decanalise the import of newsprint; and

(e) if not, the steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of small and medium newspapers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the statement attached.

(c) The matter was resolved on mutually agreed cost-sharing formula between the newspaper industry and STC.

(d) and (e) Government's response to issues such as decanalisation is always conditioned by overriding concern for the interests of the small and medium newspapers.

Statement

Allegations of mishandling, made by the President of Indian Newspaper Society against State Trading Corporation of India:

1. The Price Fixation Advisory Committee has been meeting once every quarter and the prices proposed by STC take into account all foreign exchange fluctuations and adjustment of all liabilities on the day of fixation